



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	MAIL STOP: ISSUE FEE
Michael Steigerwald)	Group Art Unit: 2881
Application No.: 10/670,556)	Examiner: JAMES J LEYBOURNE
Filed: September 26, 2003)	Confirmation No.: 8121
For: ELECTRON BEAM SOURCE,)	
ELECTRON OPTICAL APPARATUS)	
USING SUCH BEAM SOURCE AND)	
METHOD OF OPERATING AN)	
ELECTRON BEAM SOURCE)	

COMMENT ON STATEMENT OF REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit the following comments in response to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowability dated July 14, 2004. The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance at page 3 of the Notice of Allowability suggests that claim 20 is considered allowable because "the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a method for operating an electron beam source as disclosed in claim 1." However, claim 20 does not recite the same language as is recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's deviation from the language recited in claim 20 should not be a basis for limiting claim 20 beyond its literal scope and equivalents thereof.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date:

October 12, 2004

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